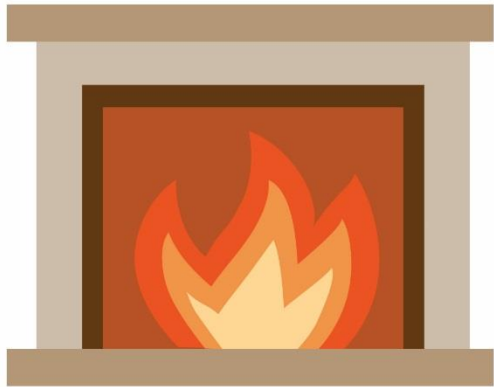




# DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

Keep Warm, Keep Safe Campaign



# KEEP WARM KEEP SAFE

**Winter Home Heating Safety**

**Mantenerse Caliente, Mantenerse Seguro**

Keep Warm, Keep Safe

# All Home Heating Fires

From 2014 to 2018



- 7, 053 home heating fires
- 15 civilian deaths
- 1 fire service death
- 52 civilian injuries
- 93 fire service injuries
- \$43.8 million in property losses



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# Heating #2 Cause of Home Fires

- Leading cause of home fires is cooking.
- Heating remains #2 cause of home fires.
- In Dukes County, heating is the #1 cause of home fires.
- Heating is leading cause of CO poisoning in the home.



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# Chimney and Woodstove Fires



- Have a licensed professional clean the chimney before heating season starts.
- They can check for cracked mortar that can let heat escape and start a house fire.



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# Chimney and Woodstove Fires



- Dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid – outdoors – away from the house, garage, & deck
- Building permit and inspection required for installation of furnaces and wood, coal & pellet stoves
- Properly maintain stoves - particularly pellet stove hoppers



# Furnaces



- Have a licensed professional give your furnace a check-up at the beginning of heating season.
- An efficiently running furnace is cheaper and safer to run.
- Don't let oil furnaces go below  $\frac{1}{4}$  tank.
- Home heating assistance programs can help low income homeowners with maintenance costs too.



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# Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



- Malfunctioning heating systems are the leading cause of CO poisoning in the home
- Most CO incidents occur during the heating season
- MA law requires CO alarms in nearly all homes
- One on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas
- Nicole's Law named after 7-year old Plymouth girl who died
- Vent was plugged during a power outage in 1/28/05 snowstorm





# Sources of CO in the Home



- Malfunctioning furnaces
- Cracks in chimney mortars
- Blocked flues
- Dryer or furnace vents blocked by snow
- Generators during power outages
- Cars running inside garages – even with the door open
- Increased problem with keyless ignitions



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# Space Heater Fires

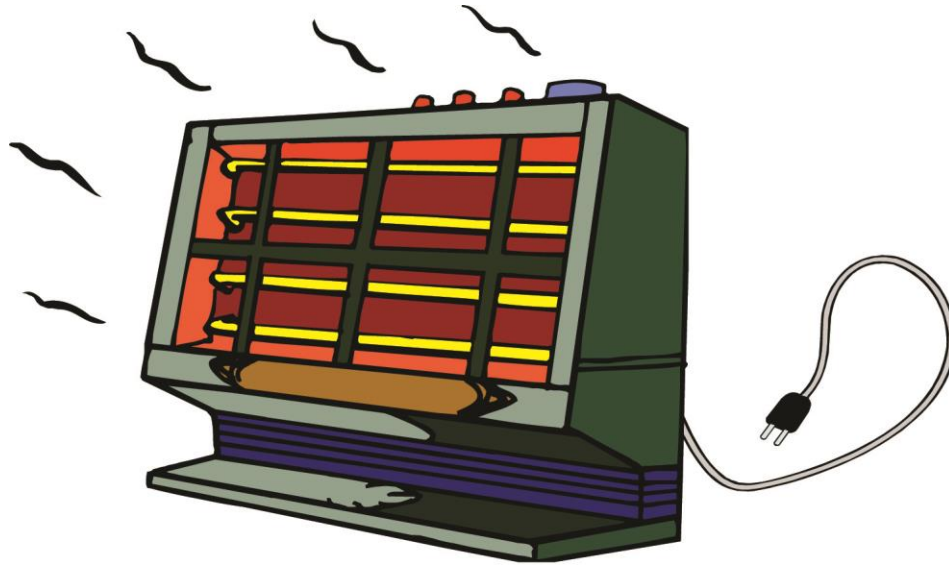


- Keep space heaters 3-feet away from things that can burn
- Turn off when leaving the room or going to sleep
- Plug directly into the wall outlet
- Avoid using extension cords
- If you must, make sure it is rated for the appliance, heavy duty
- Check for frayed wires
- Buy a space heater with:
  - Mark of independent testing lab (such as UL or Factory Mutual)
  - Automatic shut-off
  - Grill to protect the heating element



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# Space Heater Fires



- Space heater fires are rare but can be deadly
  - Last 10 Years = 1 death in every 136 space heater fires
  - Last 10 Years = 1 injury in every 8 space heater fires
- Large number of fire deaths in space heater fires in 2007 led to creation of the KWKS campaign
- Since the KWKS campaign has been fully implemented, fire deaths from space heaters have dropped dramatically.
  - Only one person since 2009 died in a space heater fire



# Kerosene Heaters Are Illegal

- In Massachusetts, unvented liquid-fire (kerosene) space heaters are illegal
- Pose fire and CO poisoning risk
- May be for sale legally in neighboring states
- Leave them there!



# ABCs of Fire Safety

## Think Safety First When Heating your Home this Winter



Heating caused 8,518 fires over the past five years and is the number two cause of home fires in Massachusetts. Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. *Th*  
*Keep Warm and Keep Safe.*

### The ABCs of Fire Safety

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms and carb level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly any year, when you change the clocks.
- Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape pla
- Practice home fire safety and set a good example for

### Be Careful When Using Fireplaces and Solid Fuel S

If you heat your home by burning *solid fuels* (coal, firewood, ing and after using these kinds of fuels.

- Have the chimney professionally cleaned every year.
- Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing Laboratory (UL).
- Get a building permit before installing a stove.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Dispose of the ashes in a **metal** container, with a lid, i and porch.

### Space Heaters Need Space

Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If yo so safely.

- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.



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9/18

## Mantenerse Caliente Mantenerse Seguro



### ¡Piense en la seguridad primero al calendar su hogar este invierno!

La calefacción es la segunda causa de incendios domésticos en Massachusetts causando más de 8,518 fuegos durante los últimos cinco años. Utilice de manera prudente y responsable su sistema de calefacción hogareña y calentadores portátiles. Esa es la forma para... Mantenerse Caliente - Mantenerse Seguro.

### Repase El Abc Para No Tener Incendios Y Estar Seguro

- Asegúrese de que haya alarmas y detectores de humo que funcionen en cada nivel de la casa incluyendo una altura de los dormitorios.
- Pruebe las alarmas de humo y de monóxido de carbono una vez al mes y cambie las pilas dos veces al año, cuando cambie la hora.
- Tenga prácticas de incendio en el hogar para ensayar el plan de escape de la casa.
- Practique la seguridad para no tener incendios en el hogar y sea un buen ejemplo para sus hijos.

### Tenga Cuidado Al Usar Chimeneas Y Estufas De Combustible Sólido

Si usted calienta su hogar quemando *combustibles sólidos* (carbón, leña, perdigones) tenga cuidado antes, durante y después de usar estos tipos de combustibles.

- Limpie la chimenea profesionalmente todos los años.
- Asegúrese de que la estufa esté aprobada por una agencia de evaluación nacional, tal como Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- Obtenga un permiso para el edificio antes de instalar una estufa.
- Aleje todo lo que pueda arder a tres pies de distancia.
- Bole las cenizas en un envase de metal, con una tapa, lejos de la casa, el garaje y del porche.

### Los Calentadores Portátiles Necesitan Espacio

Los fuegos causados por calentadores portátiles son raros pero muchas veces son fatales. Si usted tiene que usar un calentador portátil, hágalo de forma segura.

- No use calentadores portátiles como su fuente principal de calefacción.
- Aleje todo lo que pueda arder a tres pies de distancia.
- Utilice solamente cordones de extensión diseñados para equipo pesado.
- Siempre apague los calentadores cuando vaya a la cama o cuando salga de la casa.
- Los calentadores portátiles de keroseno son ilegales en MA para el uso del hogar.



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9/18 Spanish

- Smoke alarms
- Home escape plans
- 2 ways out
- Meeting place out front
- Plan around your abilities
- Practice your plan
- English/Spanish Pamphlet
- DFS KWKS Fire*Factors*
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Portuguese
  - Vietnamese
  - Chinese
  - Russian
  - Haitian Creole



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# Smoke Alarms



- Install smoke alarms on every level, outside sleeping areas and in the basement.
- Test alarms monthly.
- Battery powered alarms that are more than 10 years old, or have expired must be replaced with 10-year, sealed, non-rechargeable, non-replaceable batteries.
- Must contain a hush feature to silence nuisance alarms.



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*Working smoke alarms double  
the chances of surviving a fire.*

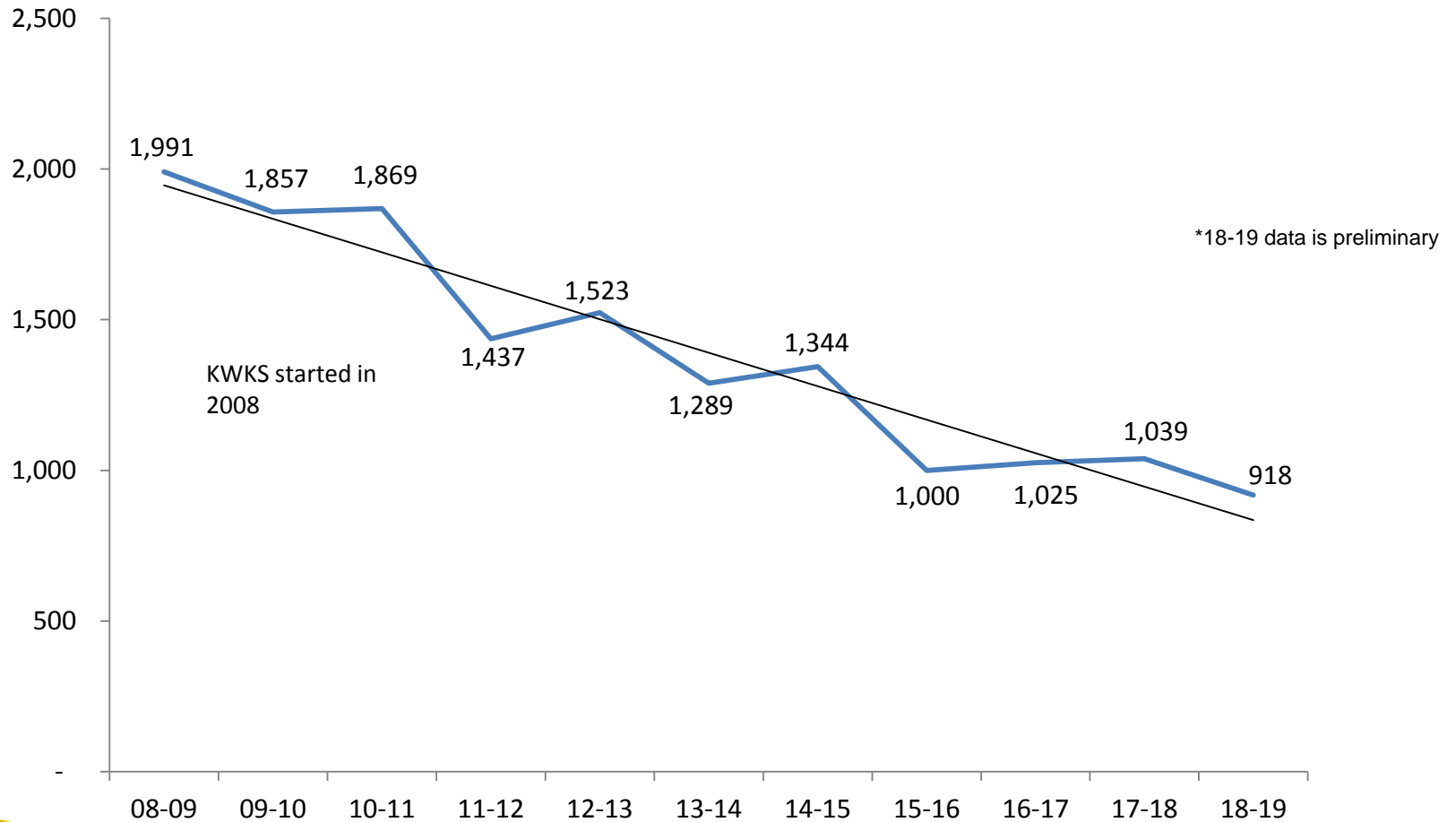
- Use photoelectric or photoelectric in combination with ionization or carbon monoxide alarms
- Working smoke alarms give early warning of danger and are the single most important way to prevent fatal fires.
- Working smoke alarms give people crucial seconds to use their escape plan.



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# Effect of Keep Warm, Keep Safe Campaign

## # of Residential Heating Fires by Winters



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# No Heat: Don't Make a Bad Situation Worse

- Do not use the gas oven for heat
- Pours CO into the room
- Alternative heating like wood stoves and space heaters are not designed to replace central heating furnaces
- Overworking them causes fires
- If no heat, go to an emergency shelter
- Tenants: call landlord and City/Town Hall



# Fuel Assistance

- Explore fuel assistance early in the season just in case you may need it
- Fuel assistance programs can help homeowners with heating system maintenance and weatherization
- Even if you don't need help with fuel bills
- Senior centers often have information



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# Fuel Assistance

The Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-home-heating-and-energy-assistance>

DHCD Heat Hotline 1-800-632-8175

For Boston only, call 617-357-6012

Visit [\*\*www.mass.gov/dhcd\*\*](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd)  
and click on "Home Energy Assistance Programs"

Or [www.mass.gov/KeepWarmKeepSafe](http://www.mass.gov/KeepWarmKeepSafe)



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# Fuel Assistance

State Attorney General's Office's

[www.mass.gov/ago](http://www.mass.gov/ago)

## **Learn about fuel assistance webpage**

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-fuel-assistance>



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# Fire Safety Information

- Department of Fire Services [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)
- [www.mass.gov/KeepWarmKeepSafe](http://www.mass.gov/KeepWarmKeepSafe)
- U.S. Fire Administration  
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>
- National Fire Protection Association –  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and type in “Heating Safety Information”



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